
American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection



Part 1: Missionaries

The Irene Forsythe Hanson Papers, 1921-1980

Series I

Correspondence
(Incoming and outgoing intermixed)

Folder Description:

Correspondence,
January 11, 1937–March 17, 1937

Box Number:

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Folder Number:

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This shows
the kind of
card to the
Coronation
affair here
last night



The British Community of Tsingtao Requests the Honour
of the Company of Miss J. Forsyth

6 Iri Yang Road
Singapore, S. S. S. S.

January 11, 1937

Dearest Mother + all:
Just a note. I am sure I owe you a letter - I mean it is time to write. I'm not just sure when I did write last. These days are so full, yet much the same etc. that I just seem to go thru them without much ^{comparative} memory of time - not like moving to a new place ever ten days etc. with more changes in things + people.

I have a letter of Dec 10 from you + the fine letters from Bud, Bessie + Margie on the last mail. The tally hasn't come, so I expect you decided not to send it + it is all right. I am sorry I put you to so much trouble. Mary V. said one year they sent her some, it was so dried on getting here that it wasn't worth it at all. So be comforted if you've not been able to send it. Thank you all the same for your trouble + love + better + thoughtfulness in it all. I do so appreciate it. I love you for all of your loving thoughtfulness.

I. I was interested in your "mystery sister" plan. I hadn't heard of it before - At the end of the year do you tell who has been the sister all year? So fine to have such big numbers for your Sisterhood + Brotherhood classes! I like your plan of Bible questions + answers. I'm sure they enjoy it + think it fine. I wonder do you assign certain chapters before. I think we may be able to use it with some of the older churches too! Thanks for the suggestions. Thanks for Warren's letters + cards. So fine to have this trip! My heart still longs to hear of meeting someone who can touch him!

Qula, you surely can feel repaid for your postage on that pair of shoes! They were small for me - I prayed, "Lord, for whom did you send them?" At once Mrs. Conrad^{name} came to me. She is going soon on furlough so over I went with them. They fitted just like gloves + she was needing shoes badly. She isn't as fortunate as I to be able to wear Chinese made shoes. She needs the arch support, etc. She

3) I hadn't been able to get them from home
+ they cost so much. She said they
were the most comfortable shoes she
had in years. Still be home after
a few months — if you have anymore that
size send in 90 of Board or ask Board
for her address. They've had a number
of losses in banks + run pretty close
so she appreciated it very much.
It was real fun to be a part of the
chain by which Her has provided for
her needs! I was just thinking how
much Christ would after love to do
for so many of His needy ones by those
of His who have the things, but how
deaf ears often are + unwilling after
to part with things, but keep ^{them} on + on for
years. I surely had ^{more} joy ~~in~~ being His
link for another than for myself!
She wanted me to thank you. Were
they Mrs Ladd's. Those sneakers you sent
two years ago I wear still — only they've
soon to be replaced They've been a
big help —

4] Well, I'm the owner of an organ -
will soon be on the way from Slangai
& will have to go thru heaps of red
tape to get it thru customs but that
gift of 66.67 - was just enuf for the
67, - nice folding organ. I might extra
I'll have from some other gift money!
I'll put it a sweet provision of the
Master. I'll write to Ruth Swinney
soon. Who is she?

Such a wonderful letter from the Baker
Presbyterian & resident - my first from
them + such good news of the Enterprise
church with a pastor etc. My such
a lot of letters + cards from prayer
helpers - How sweet of them all to
remember. a collection of letters from Wood-
burn friends. Mrs. Burkhardt had
someone write for her - she's ^{been} in the
hospital & just home. might write
her a card for me. I'll try to
write soon but won't have much
time to for a time. I want to write
a short report put on a few items
& put some pictures on it.

5] Yesterday I went to Kiaslaw, I was up
on the train to a Lutheran missionaries
home. There were folks from seven
missions who work in these counties
around Isingtoe. Had a very nice
day. Went 7 A.M. — Mrs. Rheinbult
was a peach to care for all of us —
She had about nine of us for dinner.
There was discussion of field &
church problems etc & was very
helpful. The missions represented
were, Southern Baptist, Korean Presby-
terians who have work here, Presbyterian,
Swedish Baptist, Lutheran, ^{am} Assembly of
God, ⁺ Pentecostal Assemblies of U.S. &
Canada. Had a fine day. Got home
just at dark & Miss Fow had helped
the cook to make "pastu.", It was a
raw cold day & it seemed ^{so} good to
have a home to go to! How sweet
is our master's care of us!

Tomorrow, I begin to go out to

Tu Shaw So where we will be until the
folks are too busy to have us in.
their preparations for the Chinese
New Year. That will keep me so
I can come home for nights at least
& maybe some p.m. I didn't want
me to go away entirely. Isn't it an
unusual year — when I'd planned not
to be in at all — to be in or near for so
long. But Hickill is best & he'd rather
have us easily responsible & satisfied
in whatever He leads than to have
a service offering of our own willing.

Mr. Van Lanit been well for a long
time. He often commiserates with Mrs
Faw — We hope both will soon be
well & able to be up again.

My! the word is a mess! Just
so we keep our hearts untangled
& pure before Him — so He can right
as much as He can thru us —
that is our concern!

Much much love & Keep well &
I love you all hearts — Irene

Huo Li Chuan
January 16, 1937

Dearest Mummie dear + all!

A note this P.M. before church for you so
you'll be at rest about me. We came here
a couple of days ago + are settled in new year
quarters - ~~too~~ busy now to be out (for them
I mean) + the station, Mary Law, urged me to stay
put for a few weeks at least till this time gets
by. We're all settled in the west courtyard +
have a little stove + are comfy ~~and~~ can be -
M + Law is such a good cook + we're busy
every day. There is a prayer meeting each
~~night at 8:00~~ night with the Christian group + then after supper
have English Bible class. Law Senior A.S.
students now in English classes - The main
object is for Hsin Iu but these three are all
welcome of course. One boy has come from Mao
chia Ling to continue - He was in the class while
I was there. Pray for him that he will fully surren-
der to God! What a blessing he could be to
his village + whole church if - for he is
a brilliant boy but lacks the one thing!
It is a great joy to be here - to share the
times of assembly with them + to be able to

myself so fully just to doing His will as He
slows it day by day.

There were two boys who went into Livingston
with your last letter & brought out some things
& mail — a letter from you & news from the
folks. I've been glad that you've had my letter by
now of our coming to the country so you'd be
much easier of heart over reports of Japanese
taking Livingston. I've had no news from there since
but reports say all quiet. Now I thank
God for your victory over concern for me! Just rest
it all with Him for one is immortal until
God's time is up — Don't worry about me
physically but pray that we may have His
great spiritual power to flow thru us, that
we may be clean vessels that are useable for
Him. That is most important of all!

I've been praising God these days for what He is
doing for Warren — I've a new faith in God's greatness — I think
I'd rather feel Warren a bit too hard a job! — Lack of
faith in God — I'm not surprised that there is
no seeming way out yet for twins but I am
confident that He will glorify His name — if it
is His will — the education of 3 boys into a terrific
task for the Ruler of the Universe. Let us watch Him
work out His will —

Church times — Much love to all my
loved ones — As ever — your — Irene

Tsining, Shantung.

January 18, 1937.

Dear Friends;

A good many months have passed since we have written to you good friends and supporters of mission work. We thought especially of you rather recently when Mrs. James Duguid Jr. visited Tsining. As one familiar with the work of the churches she gave us a little picture of the difficulties through which you have been passing and of the unusual loyalty and sacrifice that has been necessary and forthcoming to keep our work going on. Our hearts swelled with gratitude to God for you and your loyal support. Too often, I fear, we get engrossed in our end of the work and take yours a bit for granted. Please forgive us. May God bless you as you continue the good work and may this centennial year of our board be a blessing to churches and missions.



Testing the Mudcake

Photo by O. J. Todd

The chief unusual condition affecting our life and work for the past 18 months was the flood. The bulk of the water of the Yellow River flowed widespread across our plains for eight months before the big gap in the dike could be closed. The ten months since that have been months of very gradual recovery. Almost 1000 square miles of plain was left with a deposit of fine silt in the form of a thin slime spread over it, all the way from a few inches to ten feet in depth. The drying process was very slow, first a crust formed on top and then it gradually extended downward until the slime finally settled into hard dry mud cake marked off into sections by deep irregular cracks.

As an extreme ~~extreme~~ example of slowness of the silt deposit in getting into shape for cultivation I may mention a region ten miles south west of Tsining which I visited with a friend a few days ago.

The mud there was so deep and consequently dried out so late and was so hard that at the usual time for sowing wheat nothing could be done with it. But rain followed by freezing and thawing has produced a crumbly top layer. Now at last in January the farmers are sowing their wheat. It is the first crop of any kind they have been able to sow in 18 months. By the time it matures they will have been two years without harvests. If the seed survives the rigors of the season it will yield a rich harvest for the silt deposit adds to the fertility of the soil.

"Every cloud has a silver lining" but perhaps this great calamity will prove to have a golden lining. The gold is in that rich layer of tawny silt. It has been washed down from the highlands of north west China where it had been deposited by the dust storms of centuries that swept in from the Gobi desert. As an example of its fertility let me tell of an instance of which I've heard. In a certain place the average bean crop received from an acre of land before the flood was about seven bushels. This year some fields yielded as high as 70 bushels per acre. The benefits of the silt will continue for several years.

But to balance such golden reports we must mention that there is another large area which received such a deposit of sand that years must pass before it can be gotten into shape to yield any decent crops at all. However the area that was benefited was greater than that injured.



*My Helper Being Carried across
a Field of Mud.*

the arrangements could be made we sent out a call for 2000 refugees to work on the dyke. The rains were already threatening and it looked like a desperate undertaking. But with a prayer that the rains might be prevented from interfering we began the work. We had technical experts from the commission to help and then another \$2000.00 came. A great difficulty was added to the work because the land nearest the dyke was under water and the earth for building up the dyke had to be brought up from under the water. With the aid of boats earth was brought from shallower places at a distance. The work went steadily forward and at the end of two weeks the dyke was reasonably secure and our funds were exhausted. Only half a day of work had been lost on account of rain. Rains had fallen at night and away in the eastern mountains floods had fallen which drained into the lake and raised the level so much that but for our work the crops would certainly have been drowned. It is gratifying now to hear that the harvests saved were worth many times the \$7000.00 spent on the job. As one of the workers put it, "We repaired the dyke and God gave the famine relief." Altogether it was a most satisfactory bit of labor relief and flood prevention in which to have a share.

In the course of the spring and summer I had some interesting experiences distributing famine relief. I leave it to your imagination aided by a snapshot of one of my helpers, to picture the difficulties of navigating that sea of slime especially after it developed a top crust.

But the most satisfactory work of this kind was a labor relief project. Along the Grand Canal there is a section where a single line of dyke stands between a lake and a stretch of low land. The Yellow River flood had ruined this bit of dyke. But after the river was thrown back into its channel much of that low land dried off and crops were sown.

In July I went into that region with \$5000.00 from the China International Famine Relief Commission intending to distribute it in free relief. But the local officials reported a dangerous situation to me. The summer rains were then imminent. They would be almost certain to raise the level of the water in the lake until it would overflow the ruined dyke and flood the crops and prolong the famine for another season. It seemed right to change our plans and as soon as



Repairing the Dyke

Photo by C. C. Chang

We were able to give ourselves more fully to our regular evangelistic work this fall. Stella goes with me now for her responsibilities in the Women's Bible School ended with Miss Christman's return from furlough. We made several tours and held one especially interesting week of meetings in the church at Su-gea-gee. We had a special team for this week of meetings. Dr. Han formerly the obstetrician in our hospital but now in private practice in Tsining city sacrificed that practice to go with us. The Lord used her greatly in both physical and spiritual hygiene. Dr. P. R. Abbott the chairman of our Shantung Mission took time from the many claims of his administrative tasks to help us in this class in the country. Mr. Feng a seminary graduate whose work in the Tsining city chapel has been remarkably blessed during the past year was with us also. In addition to these Mr. Ma the pastor of the circuit to which Su-gea-gee belongs was also present and his incessant and devoted work for Christ was an inspiration to all of us. The fellowship of this team was a joy in itself and we had the added joy of seeing many people brought into clearer and closer relationship to Christ.

One man who came to a closer walk with God through that week of meetings said, "I now see that gambling is a sin. For several years I have been refraining from my former sin of gambling not because I regarded it as a sin but because I knew it was contrary to the rules of the church. Now God has shown me that it is a sin." He also said that although he had been attending church himself he had not been bringing his children. He had thought of them only as belonging to himself not as belonging to God. At the last meeting he stood up with his son, a lad of about 14 years of age and said that from this time forth as far as he was concerned this son was given to God. To seal this act he asked that one of the pastors lead in a prayer of consecration for him.

There was another man who had long been a member of the church but was distressed at his inability to make any impression for Christ in his home and village. This man got his own sins cleared up then relationships in his family began to straighten out. He and his grown up son both reported in the big meeting about their reconciliation.

Some weeks have passed since these meetings ended but it was a joy to see pastor Ma a few days ago and hear that both these men were going forward and winning friends and neighbors to Christ. Also he reported that especially in the western part of his circuit there is a great interest in the gospel on the part of non-Christians and that church members and catechumens are both doing their best to teach them. They are asking especially for trained women to help the women inquirers.

On Sunday at Su-gea-gee Dr. Abbott was interested in the calling of the roll in church. A list of all church members and catechumens was posted in the church. At the beginning of the service a young man stepped up to the list and began calling the roll. He put a mark after the names of all who responded. You might be interested in the way the names of some of the women were called. According to the local custom women usually have no given names. They are designated by combining their married and maiden names much as we sometimes write, Mrs. Jones nee Smith. The number of Chinese surnames is limited and so the same combination of names frequently occurs. Then how is one Mrs. Wong nee Jong to be distinguished from another. They had a way to do it at Su-gea-gee. The young man called out "34 year old Mrs. Wong nee Jong" then a little later "67 year old Mrs. Wong nee Jong." What would they do if both Mrs. Wongs were the same age? Well, that question hasn't been answered yet.

It is a strange sight to see eggs on the offering plate. One lady 84 years of age and very poor put one egg and some coppers on the offering plate when she came to church. This represented a tithe of the eggs her hens had laid and of the value of the cotton yarn she had spun that week. No wonder that church is leading toward self-support in this field.

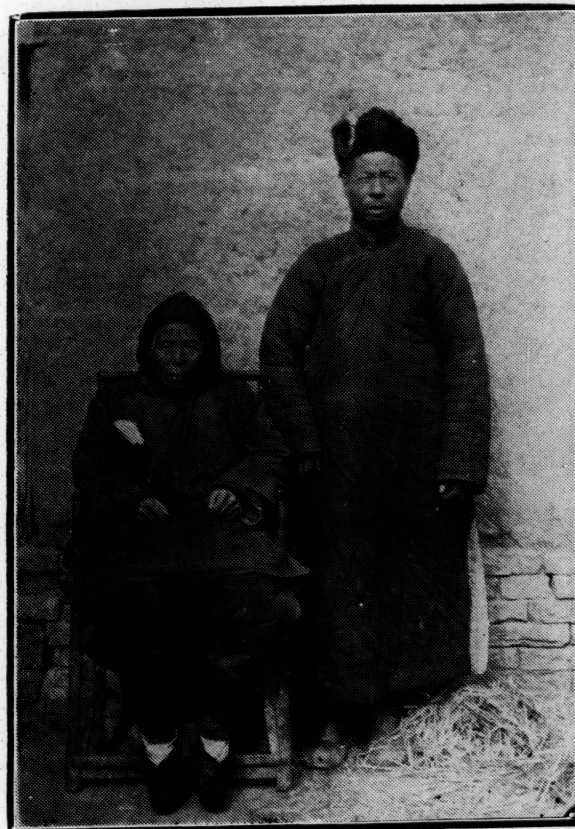
Two years ago old Mrs. Liu asked special prayers for the return of her son who had gone away to Manchuria 20 years ago and had never sent back any word. The story of how that son became restless in the far country and started home at the time we were praying for him has been told in an earlier letter. On this visit we took a picture of the old lady and her "wandering boy" who returned.

Those of you who have been working on leadership courses may be interested to know that the problem of training lay leadership for the Chinese church is a most vital one with us now. In view of the low economic level of the people there will long be many little groups combined in circuits because they cannot support a pastor alone. The pastor of such a circuit can only be at one place at a time. Much of the time laymen must carry on the work with only occasional visits from the pastor. Hence the importance of developing good lay leadership.

In December we held a lay training class in Tsinning. It was attended by over forty representatives of our church groups. It lasted for ten days and was a step in advance of any class of the kind that we have held in recent years.

It is a real joy to look back over the past seven years and see clear evidence of great progress in many parts of our field of work. In the level of spiritual life, in self support, in zeal for witnessing, in consciousness of church responsibility a great change has taken place. The atmosphere is different and things that formerly seemed impossible are now being done. God is working in our midst. May all the praise be His.

We want to thank many of you folks for the beautiful Christmas Greetings you sent us.



Mrs. Liu and her Son

Sincerely yours,

Deane and Stella Walter

Huo Si-chuang
January 28, 1937

I haven't much time + all:

I have a little time now - classes are over for the morning + I've a chance to write a bit. I'm not sure when it will go but I'll write so as not to have a chance come up suddenly + have nothing written -

I wonder what news you have in the papers of us here - You have more than I have tho I expect. The news we've had of Singtao these last few days is of a offensive by China against the Japanese - Rumors have come of good many things - I'll write of them when I know for sure - A man came back from Singtao one day after Chinese planes had flown over + dropped the warning for all foreigners

2. to leave 50 miles radius - Today
a man said that the German
nurses had gone on to a warship
leaving ~~sick~~ ^{refugees} in hospital &
sent the nurses out to the
country. I'm not sure at all
about whether Mr. Van & Leukenburg
or our father had gone on
or not. The writer went in from
near here a week ago but
he hasn't said one way or
other. I think if they'd gone
Mr. Chi would come back.

I sincerely hope you're early
had all of my letters from the
country - so you're at rest of
heart about me. They know
I've no intention of going in &
they won't come after me - can't,
so you just rest your heart.
We're safe & I'm unusually
well this winter - tho putting
in some long hours at
working steadily I am so

6 Iri Yang Road
Tsingtao, S. Mantung
January 31, 1937

Dearest Mummie:

Sunday P.M., I have just gotten a letter off to Bud & Bessie & have a huge pile of letters all spread out on the table in front of me. Very ambitious looking - I have a report in the printing & hope to get off to you very soon - with the notes enclosed! Yes, more work Mummie! I'm sitting up in my third floor where I've been sleeping all this time - by a hot air drum that heats from kitchen stove - It is very comfy & this room is cheery & bright. I had that pink & white woodburn quilt - the one with so many names on cards worked on it - made up with a pretty pink back - So it is the cover & spread too. How I have enjoyed finding names on it! This is first time I've used it this way. Went over a spree & bought me a 80¢ bed lamp so am all dressed up!!

Your last letter mentioned not having received a copy of the play! I'm surprised Mr. Eddy wrote me they'd type some but

2) didn't say he'd read them to you but I
assumed he would - forgot maybe. But
I asked Mabel MacCalum of Leacock to
send you 10 or 11 - I thought that very
simple since he teaches typing etc.
I'd borrowed Mary V's typewriter for the
report so I just took P.M. off &
did a copy of the plays for you. Ask
Mrs. Burkhardt whether she sent her
copy into Board or not. I've a card
from her ^(by someone else) that she's been in hospital
very ill so that may account for her
copy. I thought she too could get
you a few copies. I don't know how
useable they will be or how many
you may need. I guess let Board print
them if you really have need for them -
ask them to do it as promotional work
if you're a certain number of societies
who want them - I'll send these
copies. They aren't perfect copies. Maybe
I ought to do them again to get perfect
ones but I just haven't the time
really! I hope it is good discipline for
me to stick to it to get a good copy
I'll send them on - but if you send
to Board (tho Mrs. Burkhardt likely has) you

3] ought to have a perfect copy.

I'm enclosing some snaps - which you may send to Mrs. W. S. Scott - Rt 2. Roseburg. She wrote me for pictures - If I can get others I'll send her some. The one of me in front of house - with that expression - is awful (don't send it) Ruth just had said I don't know how to take it + this is the way I was looking! Miss Jan says to tell you that I was homesick for you + that is the way I look! This one is for you to laugh over not to publish! She took another which will be on the report -

2] This is the new "pop-corn group" out at Chaw Shan. The most of them were buried - dead - Christians without a church to go to. The Holy Spirit called many of them to real life + with the renting of the new church they found a church-home. This is in the church courtyard.

3] This is a replica of that picture on the reports Miss Jan on my right. 4] Miss Iles + Miss Jan's second little niece 5] You can guess who in front of wisteria trellis at the front of the house. Don't I look square tho - Daddy Si's shoulders - funny I'm getting a wrinkle over my nose just like his

4. My! I am glad you're all on dry unflooded ground but am surely sorry about the floods - looks like freakish climatic upsets go with last days! Our papers have long reports - Surely too bad! I am surely glad for the wonderful peace that pervades your heart Mummy - It is from Him + I thank Him. Yes, just leave it all with Him!

Mum has slowed such improvement this week. She had a kidney complication ^{of albumin} that made her suffer some extra weeks but now is much better + tests are negative. It seems just like a dream all of these hectic - yet wonderfully peaceful - too - weeks! How I praise Him for strength! Haven't been so well since I came back - no cold even all winter. It has been an experience just packed full of His grace and love. Had we gone on down the coast - How would we have managed? It is just God's wonderful love that we weren't days away + no help. How wonderfully He has used Miss H. - in a wonderful gathering together - buried - dead - cold Christians at Chau Shan. So just praise Him!

5] Elisabeth's course calls for some time in Eugene
& in Portland - maybe she's giving up the
college part of it. I'm sure Bronyce does
not mean to ignore - that is just her
habit of not writing. I see that you
have names of thirty Ed. Sec. Will they
each want a play? Ask Mrs. Burkhardt
or someone to type them. Printing is cheaper
here. Maybe I should just get them done.
There is the question of usefulness - how
many? I'm getting 200 reports again.

So nice for you to get to Margaret's wedding
I enjoyed the account so much.

Miss Huse is here I must go down!
What happened to the old typewriter Loney - Is it
gone beyond repair? Hope not since it is a
help to you! Your new paper is nice!
So glad you had such a nice Christmas. It was
lovely. There was a good joke about Mr.
Abbott you remember - you speaking of salt
& peppers. He had some funny ones - with
heads on - animals or man - they were always
on the table & before he'd eat he'd pray
of course in the country. Later another man
came & he didn't have same kind & some
of folks remarked that he didn't worship
the same idols as Mr. Abbott! Nice to
have fun with Loney & Ray over Christmas
I'd don't Ray ever ~~remember~~ not, finding Eula's
gift that year - the table lamp!

W Please thank Leala for her greetings - Where are they now? The address I have is 1165 Plain Ave. Canton. but seems they've moved but I failed to make note, You'll be seeing Mary sometime I imagine. I'm afraid I haven't had a very loving feeling to Craig since I saw his pamphlet - That is wrong - It is not for me to condemn but to ^{try to get} pray + hope for help for him.

This is Mon eve. A fine church service yesterday. The Salvation Army captain preached a fine sermon. Then we went to Clara Sullivan's ^{buffet} for supper - a farewell to Erva Moody (Sutteran) who goes on furl. Their term is 5 yrs. for single folks all the time so she'll be home + back before I go, nice party some good fun + relaxing + fellowship. The Sketches are Pentecostal missionaries here from Canada + are such fine people. I'm getting desk cleared up a bit, I hope, today. Tomorrow I have guests - I have been invited out so much - Clara S. is back almost 6 mo from U.S. + I haven't welcomed her yet - so this is to give Erva a farewell too. I must do most of it myself - boy can't Miss Hwa will help me some. I learned to

[6] make ~~a~~ new delicious Chinese dish - learned from watching the restaurant man when I had ten folks at ~~home~~ the ^{the} Mission delegation was here. Now I can do it myself. Learned it too will be able to make it when I go home - it will be better than the sweet potato-flour pasty I made! Miss Fan says I disgraced Chinese food that time. When she wants a joke on me she recounts that with much laughter.

No Miss Fan hadn't had the slats just overlooked I guess. It is a rule for foreigners but guess no one has made it so for the Chinese helpers - we've no hospital here - they may in other places. Miss Hus will take them now. It occurred to me once long ago & it went by without notice. Sorry - lack of love maybe. Ray, thank you all of your trouble over the "savings". It came all right a few days ago. Haven't decided what to do with it. Just park it I guess - till I know. At last some money has come from rabbits & now these days I'm going to collect all the wool & mail it off. That place in Vaughn, Mont hasn't answered. I'll try to see about a gift for Margaret M. Heke's mother died in November & she has a new baby boy! So glad you are better. Just a year ago since mother's funeral.

8] Had I been free I should have gone there -
to go with the family - all in white garments
to go to the grave. Non. C. burn paper & incense
of course Christians do not but go to
grave. It is a very important custom in Non
eyes. If Christian do not even go they say
all the more that they are not filial.

I guess there is no problem about my anemia now -
no one mentions it.

I'll get this aff dearest ones! I'm trying to
get ~~everything~~ cleared up - so I can go away
about middle of February & not have to
worry about things. Living here longer this
time I see things needing done in the house
maybe I'll wait till spring! It is much easier
to do one thing just do the preaching - part
or the house - find combining them is
dividing attention.

Ray one of Conradt says just before he
said, 'Miss F, why don't you get married?' - I
thought of you & your worry over me -
Never mind - I don't, I told him I didn't
want to. I'll be too decrepit when I come
again for you to worry about - big relief?

Bye - all dears - keep well
& do pray for us - & China & all -
Lovingly, Smcl Lerlas address
Drene

February 15, 1937
6 Isi Yang Road
Singapore

Dearest Mummy dear -
Just a hasty letter this mon. a.m. so
you'll be getting a letter for yourself
as I mailed a fat letter to you to
full of letters to others ^{to}
~~he~~ send out with the new report. It
will be a bit disappointing to get such
a fat one + think you're getting a
real letter for once + then to have it all
for some one else. So I'll hurry along a note
so you'll have a new word any way. I'm
not at all sure when I wrote last. We've
been home now (not going out to villages
in daytime I mean) I have been home ^{most} of the time all
along) about two weeks - where have they
gone? I've been busy the whole time -
partly getting report out + have had a
lot of this writing that has taken time,
getting Marie off on furla + Eva Moody
which has meant going out to meals
+ having guests here, getting another
cook into harness - which means

I've done most of shopping errands & much of cooking too. All put together has filled days - They've been good for me tho I've been careless about the kitchen before - At last after that cook - Chang - wanting to go home several times & me keeping him on - for his & his families sake - we set a date on which he would go - the end of the ~~old~~ year. He did well the last days, which proved all the more that the real cause was he wouldn't not could as we'd decided. We were sorry for it is the failure of personality that hurts, he'd rather be poor & farm his land ^(which is intense) than work not as hard really & earn gradually & put his family at ease & himself a bris! This was beyond us to force him to stay any longer. I've learned a big lesson! I see now why Christ limits much that His Son would give us to what we really long for - to see asking. For if we really do

not want it no matter how desirable
from this point of view the gift would
be a burden that is all! From all ways
of looking at it, we were willing to put
up with him till planting time anyway
so did have that much more - but
no it was a burden to him - so
that was all! I hate changing cooks -
it looks as if we were impossible to
please! Now - we tried another
this time a cousin of Miss Jow - I think
he has worked before in a Chinese home -
at least to begin with he is far ahead
of Chang - so will train him to cook
etc. Matter, you'll be weary of my
domestic problems. I do it all on my own
is possible - tho no conversions such
as at home & deliveries - but if one
puts all of one's time & energy on that there
is no time for anything else & we're not
sent here merely to get over the days.
I've done more than all these years ^{put together during} these
months - partly because I've been away
so much before & didn't know Chinese
food - so avoided it - but now
I'm learning! - oh lots of things!

4 The World's Women's Day of prayer was a glorious day. I went well but the only one to go out to Chas Shaw as it was all planned — well, in faith in Isa 40 — last verse I went & such a joyous time!

The joy of those new Christians telling how they'd gotten thru the New Year idol — ancestor worship without worshipping & how folks had persecuted but they had gotten thru it! My! they were just laughing aloud with joy & I never felt so released & free in leading service!

It was wonderful to hear Mrs. Wang — formerly demon-possessed telling how folks had gone by their home pointing at the Christian New Year ^{red paper} strips on their gate & cursing them for being Christians

Mrs. Su (also in the report) had come that 1½ mile in ^{the} cold wind. I thought she wouldn't be there maybe) just jubilant — her husband had argued with her but they'd not burned paper & she said she had the most wonderful New Year of her life — always before afraid of angering this god & that if she didn't burn ^{enough} paper & in the proper places etc!

5] but now she hadn't any fear of any of them & had had a new year free of fear. To go to them & to meet in the new little church etc was such a joy & to hear them thanking God for it & for the new life that had come.

P. M. Spake at the ^{union} service for all of Singtao. It wasn't anything like so spontaneous & full of joy! They were older Christians — some I expect maybe not so close to Him! & in all a more cut & dried affair but still there was sweet fellowship!

Yesterday went to Saw Sang & back to get dinner for Ella. Fried noodles again & we all over ate — even breakfast this a.m. wasn't tempting! Ella is nearing the anniversary of her mother's death so we're trying as best we can to help her thru it.

Mr. Davies just came to see whether I would be interested in going by bus out to Loas Shaw to see the snow on the mts. I'll see whether Ella can or not. It will be wonderful if we can go — mountains & snow-covered mountains just

61 do something inside of me — will see —

Wasn't Baby Irene a surprise! I was absolutely dumbfounded! It was sweet of her to want my name for her — but a pretty junk god-matter! Saw Mrs. Emery, I guess Mamma's mine, you can sympathize with her. I hope you will have her come to see you & visit. Please give her my love. Thanks for her letter!

Answer that letter didn't reach Dr. Warner at Biblical Seminary. Maybe she's not there. You've had the playlet by now — I typed them & sent last letters!

I am delighted I am that you enjoy the pain & the scarf & that it pleases you so & also that Eula's matches her new dress. Yes, sister mine it is a sad thing that ^{not} one in a million Christians know anything at all, in reality of what surrender means. That makes the challenge to me all the more real. It may mean giving up this for some & that for another but surely it means that the whole of all of us is free for Him to use as He wills, — of course it is a growing thing the further we go on — & hinges on the surrender of will & self to begin with so it is side-stepped by so many. The lady who wrote that has been led with her husband to give up home (they've sold everything to put the money & themselves in a more mobile feasible state. They have no children. God may want something else of another — but as much as any can say — even the ^{are} who ^{are} trying to go that road are only beginners & novices! How much more soft & yielded He wants me so He won't have such hard work getting His ideas to me & out through me, when & where & to whom He wants.

4) The many birthdays of you all these months
hain't been entirely forgotten by me -
See I am improving but it ^{is} just impossible
to get things there for them. I'll be thinking
of my sweet Mumsie dear on the 17 +
did remember Bess on 1 Glad you had
the twins mother! I'll slip in for a meal
on your grill! I'd have thought of Mrs Gaily
being the one to go first! I don't have
Craig's address anymore. I think I asked for
it before. ^{if not might send it - not that I will write soon!} Don't worry about repeating news
Mumsie mine, I so enjoy your letters +
a foreign mail just isn't complete without
one from you, + one always comes!

I must call again to hurry up my reports +
get them off very soon!

I suppose I should keep up my alumni
dues at Moody. I have the title of that
Union Savings all made out to send to
Moody. I feel I have done very little to
make up for all I received there.
I might get it cover this - but maybe not
that isn't so good a use of little money.

No I have a good supply of used cards
so need not send them. Thanks.

We've just had a cold spell here! a
big snow - but the N.W. wind is blowing
& we're over the worst I think - worst of
the winter likely. Sorry you've had broken
pipes - but even that is better than floods.

We aren't must be back into routine by
P.M.

now - Just came up from basement the
day has done well with 5 sheets & 6
pillow cases - the first & biggest part
of washing ^{rubbing on a board - no machine but stationary tubs}. I have so enjoyed the bed covers
from Bethel & Quovais - They are slips to
cover the down quilt & fine to have them
to change & wash ^{for Miss Fair's bed}. The Woodburn quilt I've enjoyed
so on my bed - newly padded & I use it without
a spread - Funny Mr. Butterfield's name so
often seems to jump at me in a.m. it is in red
& near the center!

Must close now & plan supper. Amy
Hausman, the German girl who has been
coming up ^{to Ruth's} lots, will ^{Ruth really found her &} be here ^{tonight} ^{saved her,} for
a visit & prayer time afterwards.

Ella will go so will go by bus & take
lunch for a little play & to make Mr.
Havens happy too to see Loathaw under
snow -

Lots, lots of love - honey,
Yours Irene

6 Tsai Yang Road
Tsingtao, Shantung
March 1, 1937

Dearest Mother mine + all;

Here it is Monday after a busy time
yesterday + today as well - now while
I wait for a caller I'll write a bit to
you 'long mine'; Your letter came on the
8:30 ^{night} delivery the other night - I was in
bed reading - so had a nice visit from
you before bed. + also one from Miss
Thurman from Jensen - She surely is
a wonderful prayer-helper - She + Mrs.
Mack somehow I always feel are just
seriously carrying the prayer-burden.
That was so nice of the Roseburg S.S.
to send that 20.00 - I'm not sure yet
just what the Master has sent it for
but He will show in time. The Leaneck
World Service's 2.50 glad that they send
each year came just in time for the
printed letter, ^{I always use it for the letter,} it was not enough for all but
a large part - Printing is 8.30 + pictures were
2.70 + postage 2.20 so about 13.00 Mex
about 4.50 in U.S. money. Could it be

2] done for that there? I doubt it —
Keep track of postage & I'll send it for
I don't want you to bear that. I'll
try to get a couple more thank-yous,
to Roseburg & Leam's written maybe you'll
not have sent the reports yet when this
reaches you.

Well, hurrah! hurrah! unless something
happens now — something else I hope to
go to Kiaslaw on Friday. You see we
expected to go soon after the Chinese New
Year but Miss Hui had flu & that
made it hard to leave until she was
on way to recovery & also for me to go alone
to the most urgent places. ^{It} would be not
very wise nor very effective to these newly
opened places — so I was trying to
be patient & was busy here for this but
I surely had a slacker feeling in my
heart — (See I haven't learned to be
quite as soft & yielded as I should
to be happy utterly — when not able to
be on the job) — (I've done pretty well tho
these months — for me) Miss Hui's sister
who was here helping with her got sick
at home — so with all the ins & outs —
It has worked out that I'll go to

3) Kiaslaw & live with the Lutheran missionaries
Miss. Reimbucht (who one year lived in the
other half of this house where Ruth lives
now) & can go back & forth to meeting.
Ralph C. came with the request for us to go
to a little group of some twenty Christians
but they were in difficulty because of no
place for us to live — so this will solve
their problem as well as make a suitable
place for me to go alone. I am glad in-
deed to go.

Yesterday taught Mr. Anspack's (remember
we went to call on them in a hotel in N.Y.
of Lutheran mission here) English Bible class.
He was in Iran. There were over twenty
there — I enjoyed it. ^{ever so long since I've spoken in English.} Thursday I promised
to go to the Haliness church to speak to
their women's groups. You'll think I'm
very cosmopolitan! They have a new young
couple from Canada here in charge of
their work — just such a nice couple —
burdened not easy with meagre language —
& here a few weeks ago he has had
a sort of nerve paralysis & his mouth
drawn to the side & eye squinted —
It is too bad. Ruth & I went to call &

4
had a nice visit - she had tea etc - They
asked me to go then to their meeting - So I
will. Yesterday after class a Miss Chang
of Nanchow, a Christian girl here in the
Government High School, a former student
of Anita Irwins' (you remember her) was
here for dinner & most of the afternoon
& a time of prayer before leaving.
She has found three Christians in the school
& they after meet to have prayer together -
She seemed so glad for the Christian fellow-
ships - & wants to bring her other friends
here some Sun. P.M. Will have a
bit of tea & then a meeting. I'm so glad
for these opportunities here in town - if
I have to be in -

Well, my caller's husband may not have
understood - I still write - it is five
& no guest.

This a.m. ^{pt} a lot of letters off & then had
a caller - She is from Szechwan not a
Christian but her husband a baptized
Christian (supposedly) a doctor here is
a Christian hospital - had been living
with a woman who all took to be his
wife until this one arrived! mess

2] It surely can't help the claims of
Christ in her eyes — It wasn't easy
to talk to her — You could only say
that there are true & false Christians
& urge her to seek peace from Christ!
One must admit it is a big challenge
for a non-Christian woman (^{is} a son Hyrvald)
to not hate him or the other woman &
even to pray for forgiveness for them!
She's to come again tomorrow. ^{Some} Men
can be such beasts & women too from
the temper she's displayed! It is just sin
in human heart & takes different forms
that is all! Will have the Teachers
of two schools.
Prayer meeting here Thurs. Eve -
will have to serve cakes & tea after it.

Our new boy is a great relief!
His foot & legs just clip up & down
stairs & can see what is to be done -
If he turns out to be as good at cooking
as so far with cleaning etc we will be
very well satisfied. Please pray for
him he isn't a Christian.

Mr. Van sent us over a pair of two
lovely calico blouses in flannel to enjoy
a day before he took them to church

6) Sunday! + a big pot of lovely white
azelia. We got a little pot of what
is called "tea flower" a lovely waxy green
leaf + rose blossoms - very lovely -
So we feel we're in a flower bower.
Must send the azelia home in a few
days. God is so good - How He has
provided necessities + extra love-gifts
all along the way! Miss Faw is
better but much backache + headache
slows up her gaining strength. The
Dr. seems to feel it is all in getting well
+ necessarily slow - She has developed
a great store of patience - when she
used to be ill she was impatient - so
I guess it hasn't been in vain!
I'm sure there is more blessing than
that hidden in it all. Will see it
in His time! My dearest I'll close
now + write those other letters.
I went to Miss Hus's + will go again
tomorrow. We bought oranges today on the
street - weighed here + shot a chin -
cook went back with them on the scales.
He had no face to object muttered 'his weight was
always right - how did this happen?' He did
it cleverly! I saw the scales as he weighed it too.
Bye + love love to all - As ever Your Dear

Li Chuang, Chiu Yeh,
Mar. 17, 1937.

Dearest Irene:

Have just finished breakfast and we always have a little "lull" at this time for the folks don't eat quite as early as we do: so far there are only two small boys at my elbow watching ~~watching~~ me write these " queer characters".

We are in a new place where no "white folks" have ever been before! There are three families studying very earnestly here and in a village near by quite a number of people are studying.

Yesterday forenoon Mrs. Yang the Bible Woman, Mrs. Hsieh a volunteer helper and I had fifteen women studying the Catechism. There is also a

Volunteer preaching band from an
Aliver Center near here. Coming each
day to help Deane with the In-
enquirers and street preaching.

Later - This is as far as I got yester-
day when the folks came and we
decided to divide forces and
most of us went to a village
6 li away to a "hwei". It is a
place where we've been before
but haven't been there for almost
three years and such a welcome
as we got! Some of the women
argued that I wasn't the "Hwa
Shihuang" that was there before
saying, "That one was thin and look
how fat this one is". One boy told
me this on the way home in great
glee. I am getting entirely too
fat - have never weighed so much

in China before except right after
we returned from Korea that fall
and then I soon lost my extra
appetite. My face will soon
look like the full moon. I'll
surely have to reduce some before
Mission meeting or I'll not be
able to wear the one new dress
I've gotten in the last year. By
the way Irene I mustn't forget
to tell you one of the things that
prompted my writing this letter.
Night before last I dreamed
that I was at your house and
the two things most evident
were all the lovely new dresses
you were getting or had gotten
for Mission meeting and the elab-
orate preparations you had made

for an "extra special" Station
dinner you were giving. These
beautifully frosted cakes ^{seemed} were
everywhere one looked!

I told Deane both these ideas
seemed foreign to what you
might be doing for you probably
will be too busy to think much
about clothes for M.M. and you
usually entertain with Chinese feasts.

I suppose you are out in the
country again now.

Thick Deane thanked you for
a copy of your printed letter. He
enjoyed it and the original way
it was gotten up. Know the folks
at home would like it.

Are you going any place this
summer? Better come to Lansing
& visit us & we'll go up to the mt. for a short

time - We haven't any plans - Love - Stella.